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## THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY.

for the mail packets of the 5th, 15th and 25th of the month.

A. J. LAMOURÉUX, Editor and Proprietor.

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs; a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the commercial report and price current of the market, tables of stock quotations and sales, a table of heights and charters, a summary of the daily coffee reports from the Associação Commercial, and all other information necessary to a correct judgment on Brazilian trade.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, DECEMBER 24th, 1887.

THE recent *arviso* of the minister of agriculture relating to mining concessions to which we called attention in a recent number, still continues; the *Jornal do Commercio* of the 19th inst., repeating the objections raised by it on the occasion of the publication of the *arviso* as to the shortness of the term, one year, and the smallness of the mining claim allowed, viz: one mineral *data* of 686,070 square meters. As regards the first point we quite agree with the *Jornal*, since as we stated in our issue of Nov. 24th the limitation within reasonable limits of the area over which the concession becomes exclusive removes the most objectionable feature of the old system of long terms, and we see therefore no good reason why the right to explore should not extend over a number of years instead of being limited to one. In relation to the second point the *Jornal* says "It may be reasonably presumed that since numerous concessions each of a considerable number of *datas* have not succeeded in passing beyond the stage of projects, nothing is to be hoped for from concessions limited to a single *data*." The writer does not seem to have perceived that his assertion suggests a rather troublesome reply to his argument. If many of the concession of 50, 100 or 200 *datas* have not developed a single working mine and if those which have passed beyond the stage of projects have never developed more than one mine, it is clear that something more serious than the size of the claims must be wrong in Brazilian mining legislation. The fact is that the Brazilian mining claim, limited as it now is to a single *data*, equivalent to 169 acres, is greater than those allowed in the countries in which of late years the mining industry has been most productive, viz: the United States and the British colonies of Australia. By the American law a claim on a vein or lode, whether located by one or more persons, cannot exceed 1,500 feet along the lode, by 300 feet on each side, making an area of about 20½ acres; placer claims are limited to 160 acres, while claims to coal lands may be of 160 acres for a single person, or 320 for an association. In the colony of Victoria a claim is limited to 30 acres for gold, 50 for silver, copper and tin, 100 for iron ore and 640 for coal. The Queensland law only treats of gold mining and limits the maximum area to 25 acres. The legislation of the other Australian colonies is similar. It is to be understood that in all these cases the size of claims is

determined by local regulations in each mining district and the law simply fixes a maximum which cannot be exceeded and, in point of fact, is seldom reached. From choice, local regulations, or other circumstances, the great majority of miners conduct their operations on areas far within the limits fixed by the laws above cited. If those interested in mining claims in Brazil were real miners and not merely concessioners we venture to predict that the *Jornal* would hear far fewer complaints regarding the niggardly smallness of the *data*, as limited by the present minister of agriculture. On other grounds we agree with the *Jornal* that very little is to be expected from the concessions granted according to the new model, but as nothing came of these according to the old style, we do not see that anything is lost, while we hail the *arviso* as the first step in the right direction which if followed up by a careful study of the subject and a thorough revision of the mining legislation of the country may lead to much ultimate good.

We print elsewhere the text of a law presented to the provincial Assembly of Rio de Janeiro, and which has been stated to cover the ideas of Senator Paulino José de Souza, the political "boss" of the province. There is little that is satisfactory to be derived from its perusal by any one. First, the provincial government is to use the proceeds of the sale of the Cantagallo railway to reduce its debt; and then it is to raise money for attracting what appears to be a class of serfs, and in making advances to sugar planters who propose to establish colonies of these serfs around the factories to be established at the cost of the tax-payers. To be sure there is a vague provision for buying estates that the present owners cannot work, but as we have more than once pointed out this interests the shareholders of the banks to a greater extent than the planter, for at present these estates represent merely the value of the land and their purchase can be of no earthly interest save to those who have advanced money to the bankrupt proprietors. It will be noticed that not one word is said in the law regarding slavery, and the inference is that the "national immigration" it is sought to attract, is to work side by side with the slave. It has been suggested to us, that this "national immigration" may possibly mean the fugitive negroes from S. Paulo, who may be attracted by the advantages of cultivating sugar cane for landlords, over those of cultivating coffee for masters. A covert attempt to discredit the S. Paulo emancipation movement, it appears to us, is evident in this law. For while S. Paulo can afford to ignore its obligations to creditors and fix a period for freeing the slaves upon whom — or we should say which — money has been advanced, the more honest and respectable planters of Rio de Janeiro will not only refuse to emancipate their slaves, but the province will come to the assistance of the creditors of these planters and by establishing labourers upon their plantations will increase the value of these to the benefit of the creditors. Or even more, the province may even buy the estates, and enter upon the rôle of a speculator in real-estate and employer of serfs. The conditions as to the advancing of funds to those planters, who are residing near railways, or have easy communication by water, are extremely vague, and will have only one effect; to stimulate the production of sugar abnormally and produce the very decline, it is now sought to avert. This law also, it appears to us, virtually confesses that the sugar planters of Rio de Janeiro have exhausted their credit with lenders of money and must now perforce be assisted by the authorities,

or the province will become a desert, abandoned by the inhabitants who will have sought more favorable localities. Altogether the position of the planters of Rio de Janeiro is most serious and may directly be attributed to the stubbornness with which their rulers have opposed emancipation and neglected immigration. Another point; sugar pays no export duties, while coffee pays 4 per cent; yet there is no mention of coffee at all in the law, and surely coffee planters who establish "national immigrants" on their plantations are as much entitled to assistance from the province, as their colleagues of the sugar industry. We cannot understand this great inclination to pet and protect this sugar industry. The produce of the central sugar factories is to a great extent excluded from the American markets by its quality, and the European markets at once meet the cane sugar with that made from beet. Taking it all together the law that expresses the ideas of the political chief of Rio de Janeiro appears an obstructive, and defective, measure to retain slavery in the province until the last day marked by the Saraiva-Cotegipe law, and one which must result in damage to the province, by which we mean the tax-payers.

THE meeting of the S. Paulo planters held on the 15th at the capital of the province, when an association for promoting the emancipation of the slaves in the province and the organization of its agricultural labour was organized, has produced an extraordinary effect. Hardly any two of the native journals hold the same opinion regarding its ultimate success, and we regret to say, that some decidedly violent attacks have been made upon the organizers of the association, both by writers supposed to be inspired by the government, and by the S. Paulo liberal press. That the first of these should attack the association is inexplicable, for the premier has declared that the government had nothing whatever of interest in the action of individuals as to emancipation, for these were at liberty to free their slaves at will; and that the liberal press should make a political question of one that is at present so clearly economical is equally astonishing. We have never considered liberations under conditions as in any manner meeting the abolition question; for the ex-slaves will be ignorant of their changed condition just so long as the ex-masters choose to keep them in their ignorance, and we therefore applaud the amendment offered by Sr. Campos Salles that emancipation should be immediate. It may be said here that Sr. Salles has been a representative of a district in S. Paulo that has heretofore been considered incorrigibly in favor of slavery, and his attitude on the present occasion can only have been inspired by a complete revolution of opinion in his district, or by an attempt to place the question on party grounds; and if the latter be the case, his action in withdrawing his support from the association can only be considered a reprehensible political move. The representative of the Souza Queiroz family proposed that the period for emancipation should be reduced to one year, and as this amendment was also lost, he in the name of his family also withdrew from the association. It is merely justice to state that the seceders are reported to have unconditionally freed their slaves since the meeting of the 15th, and it is no more than fair to believe that their secession was due to conviction and not altogether to political prejudices. Senator Antonio Prado, the virtual organizer of the meeting, in vain pointed out that no member of the association was debarred from freeing his slaves; the articles of association were intended to meet the case of those who, through embarrassment, were unable to accept

immediate emancipation, and Conselheiro Leoncio de Carvalho, who is generally conceded to be an advanced liberal, also appealed in vain to the seceders. The consequences of this secession have been manifested, as we say above, in attacks on the association from political opponents, and by the government of which Sr. Prado was so lately a member. From advices received daily, it appears evident that the restlessness of the slaves in the province of S. Paulo continues, and that not of isolated cases of flight in question, but the emigration *en masse* of large bodies of slaves from the plantations. The government has sent detachments of regular troops to the interior, apparently at the request of the local authorities, and it seems almost certain, that sooner, or later, a collision must occur between some party of these troops and the fugitive negroes. So far we have seen no complaints whatever as to the conduct of these latter; should blood be shed, however, the persons guilty of precipitating this occurrence will have a terrible responsibility to meet, for something like a servile war may very possibly result. Therefore as matters stand, opposing as we do any conditions upon the restitution of his freedom to a fellow-being, if the matter be viewed from the point evidently taken by Sr. Prado, viz: to induce the slaves to remain on the plantations, and to cause as little loss as possible to the creditors of the embarrassed, or to the stubborn, planters, we confess we can see no serious objection to this association, which granting full liberty to its more advanced members, proposes to use pressure on such as are endeavouring to obstruct the evident necessity that slavery should disappear from the province of S. Paulo. It will be noted, moreover, that the association proposes to over-look the rights of free-born children and conditionally freed slaves. We have so often pointed out the necessity of this, to which little, if any, attention has been paid by the authorities, that we cannot but applaud this clause in the articles of the association. Finally whether conditionally freed slaves are leaving the plantations, or not, the fact remains that they would emigrate under any conditions, and it appears almost madness for planters, who refuse to meet the views of their colleagues, to appeal to soldiers for the protection of their property represented by slaves, or for their creditors to take similar action to protect monies loaned on a security that is immoral, if not illegal, and the value of which is daily diminishing. Altogether, once the plea is made that certain planters cannot, without incurring a charge of rascality, at once free their slaves, we can see no better plan than that proposed by the S. Paulo association.

THE almost simultaneous action of the provinces of S. Paulo and Rio de Janeiro relative to the agricultural labour question will to most foreigners present a comparison of energy and conscious strength on the one side, to one of confessed weakness and timidity, strongly mixed with stubbornness on the other. The leaders of the S. Paulo planters at once meet an emergency, such as the necessity of retaining their ex-slaves pending the arrival of European labour, is declared to be, by promptly declaring that they will free all slaves in the province in three years, and that even this period will be abridged, for it is only granted to the weaker of the class; while the leaders of Rio produce a law that will undoubtedly be ineffective to produce any transformation of labour, except from slave to serf, and will retain slavery in the province to the maximum period marked by the 1885 emancipation law, and the scale of mortality. It is repeated again and again that the financial position of the two provinces is

widely different, and that whereas S. Paulo is in a flourishing condition, the other is loaded with debt and cannot without dishonesty free slaves that belong to its creditors. This argument loses all importance, if, as has already been demonstrated in these columns, it be considered that the law, so cherished by the planters of Rio de Janeiro, marks an annual decrease in the value of these hypothecated slaves, as well as in their number, and death also aids in this last proviso of the law. So that the security of the creditors is daily becoming less, and as the planters have no prospects of anything like meeting their debts, loss is ultimately to fall on some one; and if by freeing their slaves they can avert the occurrence in Rio of the emigration of slaves from their plantations, which is certain to occur if once the S. Paulo fugitives get among their brethren here, it seems nothing more than common prudence for planters, and creditors to take the step thus plainly placed before them. Only one explanation of the great difference between the two provinces occurs to us; and that is jealousy. Rio de Janeiro, annoyed by and jealous of the sister province, has become sulky, and says to this latter: "Free your slaves and attract your immigrants! We will go on as usual, and you will ultimately, after we are ruined, have to contribute with a part of your gains to support us!" This is a plausible explanation at least and leads to a consideration as to what political results are likely to be produced if other provinces follow the example just set them by S. Paulo. The admirers of St. Paulo's movement make no mention of decentralization, but it appears to us that the first blow at the political supremacy of Rio de Janeiro has been struck and that some *modus vivendi* tending to a greater autonomy of the provinces must shortly be decided. As we have more than once pointed out Pará and Rio Grande do Sul have periodical federative attacks, if we may so describe them. The first complains that all the money collected there is spent elsewhere, and the latter that customs tariffs organized to serve other parts of the empire are extremely prejudicial to the interests of its industries and trades. Now comes S. Paulo who can with justice refuse to pay any part of the surtax of 5 per cent, levied for immigration and emancipation purposes, save such a sum as is to be employed for the former purpose. Ceará and Amazonas could make this claim at once, and as each province follows in the road to liberty a similar claim will be made; until only in the slave-holding provinces the tax for emancipation purposes can be levied, and this is nothing but justice. If it be claimed that Ceará shows no need for immigration, or that Amazonas is unsuitable for European labour, there are certainly hundreds of better employments to be found for the money, than that of using it in paying very extreme prices to obstinate, obstructive slaveholders. We would regret to witness any dismemberment of the empire, nor do we apprehend any such occurrence; but such a contingency should be considered by Brazilian statesmen, and it is better to prevent a disease than to cure it. Liberal concessions in self-government must be granted the various provinces, and the central government no longer should hold the one, autocratic power for good or for evil that it has, and which we deduce Rio de Janeiro is struggling to preserve for it. It seems to us therefore that both economical and political complications are to result from the opposite positions assumed by S. Paulo and Rio de Janeiro on the question of slavery, and the legislative directors of the destiny of Brazil have some serious subjects for meditation before they meet in May next. Unfortunately politics are questions of men, not

measures, in Brazil, and we feel very little hope that the majority of the Chamber of Deputies will do anything in the direction we have called attention to. The next session may see a change in the ministry, although even this is doubtful unless Sr. Prado and his adherents are joined by the Pernambuco senator with his cohorts. Under the present ministry there are no hopes of a change in anything; with its resignation there is no certainty of one.

#### COFFEE.

Ordinary courtesy obliges us to take notice of Messrs. Lacerda & Co's market report, dated Havre, 10th November. Although it contains much that is old, there is also something that is new, and even if this latter did not exist, the persistence with which these gentlemen lay before their friends and customers their views of the position of the coffee market and the damage arising from the Brazilian planting interest, from the manoeuvres of speculators, entitles it to a respectful study from all engaged in, or occupied with, the coffee trade.

The report is a trifle long—sufficiently so to alarm an ordinary student of market reports; but, as we say above, its perusal will prove of interest, if only as a proof of what persistence in an opinion may produce.

Messrs. Lacerda have been consistent "bulls", not only this season, but also on former occasions, and as we consider it but fair that our readers should recognize our entire neutrality in the coffee trade we shall translate a few extracts from the market report, and add such remarks as are by these suggested.

One reason for the recent decline, say Messrs. Lacerda, rests upon the prophecies (*previsiones*) as to the future crop in Brazil from advices received as to the blossom; the other is based upon unfounded rumors as to the embarrassed financial position of Brazil. As to the blossom they have the best possible information, but personal experience advises reserve, as many accidents are to be feared before a definite opinion can be formed. Among these accidents may be mentioned: 1st—The blossom on which estimates are based was preceded by a three months drought, and that of August failed; 2nd—It is possible that another drought may ensue and stifle the fruit in formation; 3rd—Prolonged rains may occur, wash-off the fruit and cause great damage; 4th—Finally, frosts in the province of S. Paulo may sharply stop the development of the bean.

We have consequently too much sun, too much rain, and finally, frost, all against the coming crop—a trinity that few staples could resist, and under the effect of which coffee will undoubtedly suffer to a considerable extent.

As a proof of erroneous crop estimates, it is mentioned that the 1886-87 crop produced 3,500,000 bags, against an estimate of 5,000,000 and that the original estimate of 3,000,000 bags for the present crop has been reduced to 1,500,000 to 1,750,000 bags.

And to this we may add that the certainty that more or less coffee had been brought over from the 1886-87 crop to supplement the 1887-88 crop was a feature that entered into most of the early estimates of the latter crop. Shipments do not necessarily represent crops, as more than one operator for a rise has ere now found out to his cost.

We quite agree with Messrs. Lacerda that the financial situation of Brazil has nothing to do with the question, with the reservation that the revenue depends to a certain extent upon the greater, or smaller coffee crops. The misfortunes of speculators cannot, fortunately, affect the credit of the empire, or this would have been on more than one occasion in a critical position.

There is nothing unreasonable in the pretension that to an extraordinary statistical position should correspond, naturally, extraordinary prices; nor is it excessive to wish that prices should cover the cost of production, and this cost being the same let the out-turn be large, or small, and when this year the Brazilian planters had an extraordinarily small crop, it is as natural as equitable that they should demand higher prices for their coffees. The question of right, therefore, necessarily settles in favor of the Brazilians and demonstrates the value of the accusation in the question (of unduly advancing prices), say Messrs. Lacerda.

To all of this we agree, the statistical position, the desire to make both ends meet on the part of the planters and the right of the Brazilian producer to get every centime he can out of the consumer. Unfortunately, favorable as are our own and Messrs. Lacerda's opinions in this respect, the consumer claims an equal right to his opinion, and until he is persuaded that it costs 20\$ per arroba to produce this quantity of coffee, he shows an illogical, if not unreasonable, repugnance to paying any such price. In vain do the representatives of the producer point out that coffee cannot be grown under the best of conditions below a certain price; this pig-headed consumer will find coffee, or some substitute for it below this starvation limit, and all the rhetoric of the producer and his representatives will not convince him that his obligation is to save the Brazilian planter at his own expense. As we say, the consumer is illogical, and sometimes unreasonable.

Then comes the inevitable *chapt*—Anglice, "stereotyped phrase"—that the consumers are burning their last cartridges, or roasting their last bag of coffee, and a charge of producers, it may be inferred, would literally destroy them.

Statistics have not so far proven this, as those we print to-day go to show. If consumers are driven to drink up deficit coffee, they will supplement this with rye, beans, chicory, etc., and the charge of the producer would be met with a resistance that has so often occurred, that if *experientia docet*, the Brazilian planter ought to be a wiseacre by this time.

So far we have treated Messrs. Lacerda & Co's market report with the levity such assertions as we have extracted merit.

But we come to more serious questions when the foreign trade in coffee is threatened with legislative and diplomatic action to the end that speculation in coffee is to be restrained, and that this action is to be promulgated in Brazil, and so early as May, 1888.

The threats, or warnings, are rather vague but are written with such an appearance of conviction, that we cannot but credit the good faith with which they are offered to the coffee markets of the world. Speculators and producers are not, as Messrs. Lacerda appear to think, necessarily antagonistic. It is only when the latter by excessive pretensions, or the former through baseless opposition, so elevate or depress the price of an article that temptation is offered to outsiders to interest themselves, and then pure speculation ensues; and this is quickly corrected by the moderation of views on the part of one or the other. Natural commercial forces may be safely charged with the regulation of pure speculation; but to claim that legislation can put a stop to operations in "futures," and this legislation from Brazil, is absurd and perfectly so.

Surely Messrs. Lacerda do not think that New York, Havre and Hamburg coffee Exchanges will pay any attention to the thunderbolts launched against them by Brazil? And we do not believe that either the American, French or German governments would entertain any proposition to discuss such a question as this.

#### PROVINCE OF S. PAULO.

The statutes of the "Associação Libertadora e Organizadora" of the province are as follows:

Art. 1.—The purposes of the "Associação Libertadora e Organizadora do Trabalho" in the province of S. Paulo, with its seat in the city of S. Paulo, are:

1st.—To promote the total liberation of the slaves existing in the province of S. Paulo within a maximum period of three years ending on December 31st, 1890.

2nd.—To promote the efficiency of concessions of freedom, and their proper registry in the books of enrollment, assuring the rights of freedmen, free-born children, and of those to be freed (*libertandos*).

3rd.—To organize general statistics of freedmen, free-born children and *libertandos* existing in the province, assuming as the basis for this work the registry closed on March 30th, 1886, and the freedmen, and periods marked for freedoms, since made.

4th.—To promote the formation of a regimen of agricultural labor on the plantations, so that its permanence may be secured, to guarantee the future of agriculture during the period of the transformation of labor.

5th.—To represent to the public authorities as to any measures, the adoption of which shall be judged necessary, or convenient, in regard to free labor.

Art. 2.—The association will promote the total liberation of the slaves existing in the province, by the legal means of propaganda within their reach and by appointing auxiliary committees in the municipalities.

§ 1.—To the auxiliary committees will pertain the promotion, within their respective municipalities, of the aims of the association as stated in Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Art. 1 and the reporting to the directory of the association regarding the measures to which No. 5 of the same Art. refers.

§ 2.—The committees, when possible, should act in combination with the municipal chambers, requesting their co-operation for the fulfilling of their duties, and should also promote the support of the inhabitants of the municipality to lawful police measures tending to the maintenance of order and public safety.

§ 3.—Every second month the committees will report to the directory.

Art. 3.—Such planters and slave-owners are members as register their names in a book destined to this purpose, or who, in writing, communicate to the directory their wish to become members.

Art. 4.—The position of a member obliges him: § 1.—To free all his slaves within the period marked in Art. 1, No. 1.

§ 2.—To impose no condition whatever, which controls the *libertandos* or freedman beyond this period.

#### PROVINCE OF RIO DE JANEIRO.

The following is the text of the law presented to the provincial assembly, which is said to express the ideas of Senator Paulino José de Souza on immigration and colonization:

The provincial legislative assembly of Rio de Janeiro resolves:

Art. 1.—The president of the province will pay with the product of the sale of the Cantagallo railway the total of the floating debt of the province, and moreover, as convenient, the evidences of the funded debt to the extent of the surplus, or will retire the bills accepted to the Banco de Nova Friburgo, applying in this case only the excess to the payment of the funded debt.

Art. 2.—The said president is authorized to make suitable credit operations:

§ 1.—To the extent of 1,000,000\$;

I.—For advancing of passage money and other necessary expenses for the introduction of immigrants into the province, under the conditions of the dispatch of the department of agriculture, commerce and public works, dated 3rd December of the current year and in accordance with clause 4 of this same article and paragraph.

II.—To assist in the construction of suitable houses for the establishment of these immigrants, according to the plan to be established by regulation, paying a premium, or aid of 100\$ for each one at the first 2,000 built in the stated conditions, as defined, from the date of this present law.

III.—To promote the immigration to and establishment on existing agricultural properties, or on lots of ground exposed for sale, of native laborers, who may wish to move from another to this province, aiding them in their removal and giving them as a reward, at the end of one or two years, a sum equal to that advanced to European immigrants, or the difference between this latter sum and the cost advanced by the province for their removal, in case this has been incurred, the said laborers to enjoy the advantages of localization granted to other immigrants.

IV.—To verify, in case it should be necessary, that the planters who ask for immigrants for their

plantations have suitable houses, tilled ground or land suitable for cultivation to which they (the immigrants) are destined, and whether they be in the case to furnish supplies, with opportune payment, up to the first crop.

V.—To co-operate with the general government in the establishment and improvement of colonial nuclei, which the government in accord with the president may resolve to establish.

VI.—To have made investigations and publications necessary to the adoption of new branches of agriculture, and for their establishment, together with industries in relation to them.

VII.—To immediately have made throughout the province an examination of lands most suitable for the cultivation of sugar, and also the investigations necessary to render effective the dispositions of the following paragraph.

§ 2.—Up to 3,000,000\$;

In the acquisition of machinery and utensils destined to the formation of new central sugar factories, the estimates of which show a cost never over 250,000\$ in 300,000\$. These concessions should as a rule be granted in such places as are situated near railways already existing, or which have easy communication by water, to planters in the neighborhood of the situation chosen for the factory. Once established the factories, the province will have a privileged claim to the dividends earned, after deducting the cost of production, the excess of the remunerative premium (up to 12 per cent.) on the capital employed by the contractors, to be applied to reducing the amount advanced by the province, after the repayment of which the said machinery and utensils will become the property of the contractors, free of all onus which may have been established in the contracts, on the factory and appurtenances.

Art. 3.—The president of the province in the regulations issued for the execution of this law, may revoke in part or all, by legislative action, will define the conditions for erecting the houses for immigrants, the bestowing of premiums and aid under this law, and will also fix the extent and situation, approximately, of land destined to the establishment of nuclei of immigrants, which each central factory must maintain near its site.

Art. 4.—Contrary dispositions are revoked.

## PROVINCIAL NOTES

—The contract for lighting the town of Juiz de Fora by electricity was signed on the 12th.

—At a place called Praes, S. Paulo, recently a man killed his brother-in-law because of a debt of four *vitulos*, say 21!

—In January the Niteroy Gas Company will be taken over by the Belgian company that is now illuminating the city of Rio de Janeiro.

—The exports from Pará in November included, among other articles 1,814,793 kilos, of rubber 16,115 of tobacco and 11,253 of cacao.

—The president of the province of Bahia estimates the slave population of the province at 76,838, and the official value under the 1885 law at 52,054,767\$.

—On the 13th the S. Paulo treasury agency sent 86,000\$ in torn notes to the Treasury in Rio. We will soon have complaints from S. Paulo that there is no change there.

—The November receipts of the Ipanema fundry were 4,090\$725 against 5,455\$304 last year. There is a report current that foreign capitalists are in treaty for its purchase.

—O *Pais* of the 22nd says that the agent of 2,300 families in the north of Italy had visited S. Paulo and chosen a site, Ribeirão Preto, for their establishment. The immigrants ask in favour, beyond the sale of the land on credit.

—In a bill for transforming labor and assisting agriculture, which we print elsewhere, was passed by the Rio de Janeiro provincial assembly on the 17th, there being only two votes against it.

—On the 16th the police detachment at Santos was relieved by a force of regular troops. The force of the line now in the province of S. Paulo numbers nearly 500 men.

—The number of slaves registered in the province of Alagoas up to March 30th last was 15,269, representing a market value, according to governmental prices current, of 10,639,004\$500.

—An interesting statistical work on the province of S. Paulo is promised. It will cover population, geography, geology, etc. and will probably appear early in the coming year.

—In a town called Rio Verde, province of Goyaz, there is a mulatto 120 years old who has recently lost his wife. He wants to get married again, but this time prefers a young woman not over 16 years of age. Let us hope he will find his Juliet.

—On the 14th the president of the province of S. Paulo calls the attention of the inspector of immigration there to snubby annoyances the immigrants have complained of regarding their baggage, and the great delay in the examination of this.

—*Diário Mercantil* of S. Paulo on the 17th gets after the public employees, which it estimates number 60,000 and cost 30,000,000\$, or a little less than 16 1/2 per cent. of the annual production of the country.

—When a distinguished and estimable young lawyer leaves S. Paulo for the interior, he leaves a talented young lawyer as his *locum tenens*. The way Brazilians "dash" around their adjectives is admirable.

—A letter from Lameira, published in the *Diário Popular*, S. Paulo, on the 16th says that an Irishman named Miguel Godofredo (?) had been arrested there for inciting slaves to run away, and had been refused habeas corpus.

—In Tanhaú wheat is being planted in a *quintal*. Another commencement for solving the much vexed question has thus been made and no doubt the Americans and Trieste people will watch the result with anxiety.

—By a telegram received here on the 15th the slave population of the province of Maranhão on 30th March last is stated to have been 33,446 and 452 ex-agenarians were registered. The great delay in organizing the return is not explained.

—The exports of sugar and cotton from Pernambuco in November were:

Cotton.....	bags	39,893	.....	37,684
Sugar.....	"	391,958	.....	482,794

—A gentleman of Campos, Rio de Janeiro, was so rejoiced that his son had passed his primary examinations that he freed a slave. If the fathers of our doctors, legal and medical, would follow this example, the emancipation question would be much simplified.

—On the 20th the Société Anonyme etc. paid into the Rio de Janeiro provincial treasury the sum of 618,897\$670, at which amount the material of the Niteroy gas company was estimated. The Belgians have now the right to illuminate both sides of our bay.

—On the 9th inst. the president of the province of Parahyba do Norte left the capital for a sugar factory at Pedras de Fogo. He took some friends with him. At least this is what a telegram published here says, and we have no reason to doubt that even the president of the province of Parahyba has friends.

—The Rio de Janeiro provincial revenue is estimated for 1888 at 4,399,256\$284, of which coffee is estimated to produce 2,296,118\$380, and the expenses are fixed at the same sum. Among other clauses of the law is one creating a tax of 10 per cent. on passenger fares on all railways, or navigation companies that receive subsidies, guarantees of interest, privileges or other favors from the province.

—The inhabitants of Goyaz are rejoicing over the navigation project for the Araguaia and Tocantins rivers. There is also a project before the provincial assembly to connect the Uruguai and Vermelho rivers, to render the latter navigable by a canal and other works of which, we make it, the length will be 27 leagues, or about 100 miles, including the improvements.

## RAILROAD NOTES

—The *Formal* of the 18th mentions the report that the Norte railway company had been sold to an English association.

—On the 16th the first narrow gauge locomotive for the D. Pedro II railway extension was tied at the shops. The Bahian company are the builders.

—O *Pais* of the 22nd bears that the Leopoldina company had accepted a contract for building the section to connect the trunk line with the Cantagalla railway system.

—The Brazilian Great Southern railway has been granted permission to mine copper, iron and coal in the municipalities of Itapira, Uruguaiana and S. Borja, in Rio Grande do Sul.

—A telegram received here on the 22nd announces that the first locomotive on the D. Pedro II railway extension in Ouro Preto, Minas Geraes, arrived there on that date and immense rejoicing resulted.

—There have been constant complaints recently as to the delay in the arrival of the express train from this to S. Paulo. For over a week the train has arrived from an hour to an hour and a half late, and the matter deserves investigation.

—The report of the Campos and Carangola railway for the year ended 30th June last states that the capital was 6,875,624\$241. The traffic receipts were 459,603\$280, and expenses 345,646\$020, leaving a balance of 113,957\$251, or 159,498\$334 less than in the preceding year. Passengers carried, 52,024, producing 113,385\$320. Coffee carried, 9,661 tons, sugar 1,797 tons and minerals, including luggage, 17,955, total 29,323 tons. The November traffic receipts on the same line were 33,857\$640, of which 9,903\$900 from passengers and 22,641\$660 from goods.

—When a railway is commenced in the United States, the Yankees say "dirt was broken," but in Brazil we say "inauguração" such and such a line.

—A despatch from the minister of agriculture dated on the 12th to the fiscal engineer of the S. Paulo railway instructs him to at once come to some arrangement with the company to the end that freights may be reduced.

—The minister of agriculture threatens to impose a fine on the *Príncipe de Grão Pará* company for the alleged levying of tolls on that section of the purple between Areal on its hue and Entre Rios on the D. Pedro II of which the railway is the contractor, on goods bound for the latter station, whereas those bound to Areal pay no tolls.

## COFFEE NOTES

—Messrs. Lacerda & Co's report covers nearly all the accidents that may happen to the growing crop; but they should have provided for an earthquake, or a volcanic eruption.

—S. Carlos, S. Paulo, papers state that much of the fruit had fallen from the coffee trees in that municipality, and that the same thing is happening in the municipality of Ribeirão Bonito. The cause appears to be rain.

—The proposed Exchange here will be liquidated. The pressure brought to bear on the brokers by the dealers has been too strong for the other side and it appears that the interference of the brokers is necessary.

—We have reasons to believe that the reported damage to the next coffee crop in S. Paulo from rains is much exaggerated. It seems to be nothing more than the old story of planters prevaricating to influence exporters, and is another example of what exceeding care should be taken in advising crop estimates.

—Comparing the consumption of tea with that of coffee, it will be found that, while the people of the United States use about five pounds of coffee in one of tea, the people of England use five pounds of tea to one of coffee. —*Exchange*. This accounts for the Coffee Exchange in New York, and may be the reason why London does not require such an institution.

—Advices recently received from the interior, and the basis of which it is not licit to doubt, declare that the next crop, which promised to be abundant, in view of the magnificent bloom on the coffee trees, is very much compromised and will be an average, or short, crop, because the persistent drought has caused many of the blossoms to fall off before the fruit has matured. —*Correio de Santos*, Dec. 12.

## LOCAL NOTES

—The navy used up 11,530\$900 of coal in September. It seems expensive, but excusable.

—The republican party in Brazil bears a ludicrous resemblance in the national giant. It seems composed entirely of officers.

—A telegram published in S. Paulo on the 17th says the Rio chief of police had been dismissed. It must have been a great secret here.

—The funny man of the *Acadêmicos* had better continue to write and criticize verses than to exert his herculean intellect on what he does not understand, viz. the slavery question.

—On the 15th the minister tells Monsiegnor Lippmann that there is no reply. We do not know what Monsiegnor wanted, but at all events he did not get it.

—*Diário de Notícias* says that on January 6th next the Puje will canvass 10 candidates. The calendar is so full already, that there will be some difficulty in finding a day for each of the new ones.

—The *Gazeta de Notícias* on the 15th says that the New York Life Insurance company paid in October \$499,000 for marine losses in various places. It seems curious, but is probably correct.

—To pay a telegram sent from Lisbon the minister of marine had to apply to the Treasury here, and then communicate with the legation in Portugal, the Treasury agency in London and the naval accounts' office here!

—The minister of war has recently ordered that an inspecting officer should proceed to Nioac, Matto Grosso, and learn whether it be true that the commandant of a cavalry detachment there employs his men on his cattle estates.

—An Italian has recently secured two important patents here. One is for an article called *ferrocement*, which is to substitute sad-irons, and the other is *fumivoro* destined to take the place of powder in salutes and mining operations.

—A negro was arrested on the 16th who stated that he had been sent to the Alto of Tijuca to dig up some jewelry there buried, which had been stolen. The police took the digging in hand, but do not appear to have found the jewelry.

—The man who has the tin umbrella for sale, can communicate his address to this office.

—Jacképingui, in the suburbs, sends 885\$ worth of grapes to our market every day, this season.

—On the 16th, Prince D. Augusto was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Brazilian navy.

—O *Pais* of the 16th says that the cultivation of wheat will shortly be commenced in the province of Rio de Janeiro.

—A dispatch from Valparaíso on the 23rd inst. states that the cholera deaths in that city now number 50 a day.

—We have seen in a recent American exchange the marriage of a Mr. Short and a Miss Petit. She hardly changed her name at all.

—Four of the ministry have visited the edifice of our New Exchange, but he of the war department who has control of the Invalidos fund is not among the number.

—The arms, equipments and ammunition furnished by the department of war to the police of the province of Rio de Janeiro recently, cost 71,595\$800. Slave hunting comes expensive.

—The *Gazeta* of the 19th is not correct in its definition of North America. The motto of the Yankee is: "Every one for himself, and God for me!"

—The Portuguese minister having dined nearly all the ministry, on the 15th the premier gave him a hamper at which pretty well all of the ministry was present.

—On the 15th three young men were shooting at a target in the suburbs. They do not appear to have hit the mark, for they shot an old negro, and have to settle matters with the police.

—If the inspector of the custom house will kindly inquire why it is that the *confreite* in the baggage room can not make his appearance until 11 o'clock he may be able to do a very great favor to passengers.

—On the 16th the Court of Appeals ordered that Dr. Davino, accused of the slave murders at S. Maria Magdalena, Rio de Janeiro, and who had been granted habeas corpus, should be again placed in confinement.

—The 1st public prosecutor has denounced to the judge of the 10th criminal district the three men implicated in the attempt at abducting the wife of one of them, who was seeking a divorce, on 30th September. One of the accused is a priest!

—A telegram received here on the 16th states that the *Alagoas*, for the *Braziliera de Navegação* company had been launched at Newcastle, and that the new steamer would probably leave for this port about the end of February.

—On the 16th the government granted leave of absence for another year to the fine arts professor Victor Meirelles on account of his health, which appears to be so very bad, that it might be better for him to resign his position here.

—Would you be surprised to know that the five geographical divisions of the world have 136 million metres of surface and 1,483 millions of souls? The slaves in the province of Rio de Janeiro are not supposed to have entered into the calculation.

—It is quite in order, but none the less funny, to see Barão de Cotequipe, as minister of empire, notify himself, as minister of foreign affairs, that the papal authorities are to be held regarding a proposed settlement of limits between the provinces of Ceará and Piahy.

—The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Spire Sampson, formerly of São Paulo, will regret to hear of the death of their infant daughter Rose, which took place at Atlantic City, N. J., on 5th October last, eleven days previous to Mr. Sampson's return from his recent visit to Brazil.

—According to a local colleague, an Italian doctor has discovered a "bacillus" that destroys that of consumption and he proposes to inoculate consumptives with the new discovery and let the two fight it out. We are glad we are not likely to be subjected to the treatment.

—On the 18th a gentleman who was levying "black mail" on a married woman, on the pretext that a respectable article was to be published regarding her behavior, was captured by the police. We do not know under what article of the criminal code he is to be indicted, but we do know that he should be tarred and feathered.

—The *Novidades* of the 16th gives an item that shows a curious system of justice. On the "Dons Irmaes" plantation, near St. Isabel station, Leopoldina railway, belonging to Capt. Junqueira, two slaves assassinated the overseer, Bernardo Pres de Andrade, a Portuguese. The two slaves were shot just as they had consummated the crime.

—They say in Rio that Senator Prado offered himself as a candidate for the S. Paulo provincial assembly to silence murmurs that his recent action in the slavery question was taken because he was no longer subject, politically, as a senator to public opinion. He was elected by a very large vote thus, giving an answer to his detractors.



*Rio de Janeiro, 23rd December, 1887.*

## Exports.

Coffee.—There has been considerable business doing since our last report, and near 50,000 to 60,000 bags are supposed to have changed hands, but if the figures telegraphed from New York by our Exchange here be correct, there must be nearly 35,000 bags more awaiting shipment. The market had been very firm throughout, and on the 15th holders advanced quotations to force us give higher, which are, however, considerably above the views of buyers, and we are informed even somewhat above the market, but droblers are unquestionably very firm, and business is prevented by their pretensions. From almost the news has been stimulating up to this morning, when we learn that advices from consuming markets are less satisfactory. Receipts show an increase, but may still be considered small. Estimates of the next crop vary so widely that common purchase advices as to guide receive still further opinions can be obtained. When estimates differ to the extent of over 1,000,000 bags, caution is certainly requisite, and we propose to exercise it.

The shipments as reported since our last have been:

47,620	bags for the United States
24,160	" " Europe
9,590	" " Cape of Good Hope
3,181	" " Elsewhere
83,470	bags.



[illegible]

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Reserve fund.... £ 440,000  
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Kepler..... Dec. 31st

Extra steamer  
Ménoua (Loading also in Santos)..... Dec. 10th  
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Biel..... Dec. 15th  
Havelina..... Dec. 22nd  
*For Other Ports.*  
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1887		
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" 31	Neva	Santos, Montevideo and Buenos Ayres.

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	Cabin	Storage
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Capital..... £ 1,000,000  
Ditto, paid up..... £ 500,000  
Reserve Fund..... £ 500,000

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Capital..... £ 1,250,000  
Capital paid up..... £ 625,000  
Reserve fund..... £ 625,000

Draws on:  
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**BANCO INTERNACIONAL DO BRAZIL.**  
22, Rua da Alfandega, 22

Capital..... 20,000,000 \$000  
President: Visconde de Figueiredo  
Managing Director: Edward Herdman, Esq.

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With the beginning of its 14th volume (January, 1887) the editors feel themselves warranted in calling attention to the uniform and general satisfaction with which their policy and management have thus far been received, and in advising their patrons that no deviation whatever from them will be made. The News will seek to keep its readers fully and accurately informed on all commercial questions, and upon matters of Brazilian news or policy which may have more or less bearing upon any and all enterprises and investments. In its discussions it will treat every question fairly, and for the opinions expressed the editors will hold themselves personally responsible. In its news columns it will seek to keep its readers fully informed on all matters and occurrences throughout Brazil.

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